

AMENDMENT IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract to read as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~Disclosed are an~~ An optical fiber preform manufacturing ~~apparatus and method in which~~  
~~processes for shrinking and closing a deposited tube are conducted using a device suitable for those~~  
~~processes, which device is other than the device used in a deposition process for forming the~~  
~~deposited tube~~ method whereby a clad layer and a core layer is deposited on the inner surface of a  
preform tube, ~~thereby reducing the processing time while reducing the amount of OR penetrated~~  
~~from the preform tube into a vitreous component~~ for forming a deposited tube. One end of the  
~~deposited tube, thereby achieving a reduction in OR loss. In accordance with the optical fiber~~  
~~preform manufacturing apparatus and method, operations are conducted which involve setting the~~  
~~heating temperature of~~ is shrunk and closed. The deposited tube which has a closed end is arranged  
extending vertically through a circular heater. A heat is applied to the deposited tube at a temperature  
lower than the softening point of a deposited tube, exhausting contaminants existing in the interior  
of the deposited tube while moving the circular heater ~~at a desired temperature, setting. The~~ the  
heating temperature of the circular heater is then set to a temperature not lower than the softening  
point of the deposited tube, ~~and shrinking to shrink and closing close the deposited tube while~~  
~~moving the circular heater to a desired temperature.~~